

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 CU-04

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9016

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 539

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 12656

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KS

SUBJ: UNUSUAL RALLIES IN CHINA IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS

SUMMARY: PEKING HAS CAPPED AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN OF PROPAGANDA SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS WITH MASS RALLIES AND MESSAGES. THIS IS THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF MASS POLITICAL ACTIVITY INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SINCE THE REBUILDING OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BUILD UP OF PRC PROPAGANDA SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE SOUTH KOREAN STUDENTS AGAINST THE "PAK CHUNG HI CLIQUE" CLIMAXED OVER THE WEEKEND WITH A DECEMBER 14 PEOPLE'S DAILY "COMMENTATOR" ARTICLE AND SEVERAL MASS RALLIES. PEKING
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WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVES AND PEKING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HELD

RALLIES DECEMBER 13, AND WORKERS IN SHANGHAI AND STUDENTS AT TIENTSIN'S NANKAI UNIVERSITY AND SHENYANG'S LIAONING UNIVERSITY HELD ASSEMBLIES ON DECEMBER 14. THE STUDENT MEETINGS SENT MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO STUDENTS IN SOUTH KOREA. THIS PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN HAS PLAYED UP THE THEMES OF THE "FASCIST DICTATORIAL RULE" IN SOUTH KOREA, SEOUL'S ALLEGED PLOT TO MAINTAIN THE DIVISION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, AND THE "HEAVY BLOWS" BEING DEALT SUCH SCHEMES BY THE KOREAN STUDENTS. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF INCREASED TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA OR OF U.S. FORCES REMAINING IN SOUTH KOREA.

2. THIS CAMPAIGN APPEARS DESIGNED TO PLAY UP CHINESE SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA AGAINST THE SOUTH IN ORDER TO SALVE PYONGYANG'S PRESUMED UNHAPPINESS OVER THE COMPROMISE AGREEMENT REACHED THE KOREAN QUESTION IN THE UNITED NATIONS LAST MONTH. IT ALSO PROVIDES

THE OPPORTUNITY TO COUNTERACT SUGGESTIONS EMANATING FROM SEOUL THAT SOME EASING OF PRC-ROK RELATIONS MAY BE IN THE OFFING. BY CONCEN-

TRATING THE ATTACK ON THE PARK GOVERNMENT AND AVOIDING WIDER ISSUES, THE COST OF THE CAMPAIGN TO THE PRC IS KEPT QUITE LOW.

3. VIEWED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CHINA'S INTERNAL POLITICS, THESE RALLIES AND MESSAGES REFLECT THE REVITALIZATION OF MASS POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND MARK ITS FIRST APPEARANCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SINCE THE REBUILDING OF THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS THIS YEAR. BROAD SANCTIONS FOR SUCH ACTIVITY CAN BE FOUND IN THE PARTY CONGRESS SPEECHES OF PREMIER CHOU AND NEW VICE CHAIRMAN WANG HUNG-WEN. THESE SPECIFIC MASS EVENTS APPARENTLY HAVE OFFICIAL APPROVAL, JUDGING FROM NCNA'S REPORTING OF THEM. THESE ACTIVITIES BEAR WATHCING, OF COURSE. WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF HOW THE MASS ORGANIZATIONS ARE DIRECTED FROM THE CENTER AT THIS TIME, BUT PRESUME THAT GUIDANCE STEMS FROM OFFICES WITHIN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. OSBURN

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